(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) has been launched. A provision of Rs.15 crores has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.

(Ix) The Textile Export Promotion Councils are regularly undertaking export promotional activities by way of participation in fairs/ exhibitions abroad and organising Buyer-Seller Meets in important markets. As a part of the efforts to boost textile exports to Latin American markets, a mega Textile Trade show was organised under the LAC programme. Co-ordinated promotional events are also planned under the Focus Africa programme to boost the exports of yarn and fabrics to the growing African apparel industry.

(c) and (d) The textile industry in India is facing certain trade defence measures. However, appropriate action is taken by the designated Indian authorities under anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures under the WTO agreements. As regards the anti-dumping/anti-subsidy action faced by Indian exporters, the concerned Export Promotion Councils in consultation with the Government of India co-ordinate the defence of Indian exporters. In case of any violation of the provisions of the agreement in such investigations, the Government takes recourse to the Dispute Settlement provisions of WTO in consultation with the industry.

Factors effecting silk Industry

2973. SHRIJANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the f^inister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the factors effecting silk industry in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that price of silk cocoons and raw silk has fallen drastically recently thereby adversely effecting sericulture sector in the country; and .

(c) if so, the measures taken to provide relief to the sericulture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Among several factors effecting the silk industry, we may list quality of cocoons, quality-linked pricing and marketing systems for cocoons, technologies in reeling and twisting and cost and quantum of imports of raw silk into the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) CSB operates Raw Material Banks and provides Margin Money Loan to the State Marketing Agencies to ensure fair price to primary farmers. Besides, in the major markets, State Government Agencies such as the Karnataka Silk Marketing Board play a stabilising role by their presence in the Market. In the current year some State Governments have formulated a short duration Scheme for providing incentive of Rs. 10/- per kg. of cocoons to farmers on cost sharing basis by the Centre and the respective State in the ratio of 50:50, in order to provide relief to farmers from falling prices and encourage them to continue in sericulture.

Besides, during the X plan period enhanced plan provision over the IX plan period has been made *i.e.* Rs. 450/- crores for development of Research & Technology and implementation of Central and Centrally Sponsored programmes. Under the Central & Centrally sponsored programmes, Central Silk Board assists the State Governments and beneficiaries by way of grants-in-aid and technology support for quality and quantitative enhancement of production of silk.

Assistance to H.P. for development of handicrafts

2974. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount granted to the State of Himachal Pradesh for development of handicrafts in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether any effective scheme has been chalked-out for the State in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The details of amount released to the State of Himachal Pradesh for promotion and development of handicrafts during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

SI. No.	Year	Amount Released
1.	1999-2000	27.08
2.	2000-2001	47.90
3.	2001-2002	96.05
	TOTAL :	171.03